



St. Paul's

"Epistles"

February 2024

Volume 40 No. 4



In the parable that Jesus tells of the laborers in the vineyard (Matt. 20:1-16), we hear that the master went out to call people from idleness and into his vineyard. Yes, the parable is beautifully about God's grace to call and give as much as to the last as to the first and the fact that He calls any at all from one life to another - a new life in His vineyard. But the parable is also instructive for the

Christian life. Far be it from us to say that because we've received payment for work not done by us, namely Jesus' payment for our sins, that there's nothing left for us to do, that in this new life and vineyard we now again just sit idly by. Of course, none of our work helps in any way to merit salvation - Jesus says *It is finished* when He dies on the cross - yet, in the parable the servants are called from idleness.

St. Paul knows this well as he proclaims that he doesn't run aimlessly or box as one beating the air. No, far from being idle, he lives a life of discipline, of training in righteousness in the things of Christ his Master who brought him into the Master's vineyard by grace (see 1 Cor. 9:24-27). Paul knows the Proverb, *Slothfulness casts into deep sleep, and an idle person will suffer hunger* (Prov. 19:15), which isn't just a moralism but rather a commentary on the spiritual life (see 1 Thess. 5:14; 2 Thess. 3:6-11). A life of faith is a busy and active thing because it's seeking to do the will of the Master and serving the neighbor out of love. The Christian is a bystander no more sitting idle. We busy ourselves with God's Word, recognizing and giving thanks for His gifts. We have been brought into His vineyard and labor for the things He loves extolling His grace and mercy to be a part of it all. The Holy Spirit calls and gathers us from idleness to living a life of hope in Christ.

Sure, it's easy to be idle. It's the path of least resistance. It makes no demands of my life. It keeps me from any confrontation. But we haven't been called to simply be spectators. *Why do you stand here idle all day?*, is the question in the parable. The reply is, *Because no one has hired us*. So they are called into the vineyard for a new life. That's you, dear Christian. Baptized into the Master's vineyard you leave all idleness behind and embrace that which our Lord makes clear to you - you are called by grace and continue laboring in the things of the Lord by which you stand ready loving God and your neighbor bearing witness to a faith that sits not idly by but relishes in the gifts and labor of His vineyard.

God grant us a living and active faith which shows forth the grace and mercy of our Master, Jesus, and the beauty of being in His vineyard.

In Christ,

Pastor Suggitt

LENT MIDWEEK SERVICES

As part of your spiritual discipline during Lent, gather with your brothers and sisters in Christ to encourage one another in the things of Our Lord, hear the Word of God, pray, and grow in the one true faith.

Ash Wednesday, February 14

Divine Service

With imposition of Ashes

Good Shepherd - 5:30 p.m.

St. Paul – 7:00 p.m.

February 21

Good Shepherd

7:00 p.m. Evening Prayer

February 28

St. Paul

6:00 p.m. Supper and 7:00 p.m. Evening Prayer

March 6

Good Shepherd

7:00 p.m. Evening Prayer

March 13

St. Paul

6:00 p.m. Supper and 7:00 p.m. Evening Prayer

March 20

Good Shepherd

7:00 p.m. Evening Prayer

Liturgical Notes

During the season of Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday, we put away singing *Alleluia*. This fast from singing it heightens our awareness of it when it returns on the great festival day of Easter. We also refrain from singing the *Gloria in Excelsis* and withhold the altar flowers during Lent. The color of the season is Violet.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Winter has finally arrived. Holiday weekends are gone, so I'm hoping to see all the smiling faces back in church and Sunday School. We were supposed to play bells on December 31st and January 14th, but not enough kids to do it. Let's try again on January 28th and February 11th.

There are several open dates for snacks on the coffee hour schedule. Please feel free to sign up to provide a treat for the kids, teachers, and the members who stay for coffee hour. Five dozen is usually more than enough. This is a great time to sit and get to know other friends from your church, so check it out!

The calendar is going to get busy again, so try to keep up on all the notes and reminders:

February 11 – Playing bells during service. Sunday school will have their Jesus Loves Me Party. We will practice our Palm Sunday and Easter songs, then ***we will have a group lesson*** about Ash Wednesday and Lent. Then we will have some fun activities, do some crafts, and have a treat.

Wednesday, February 14th is Ash Wednesday. Services are 5:30 p.m. at Good Shepherd and 7:00 p.m. at St Paul.

Saturday, February 17th 1-3 p.m. All Youth group and Sunday School families are invited to Sherwood on the Hill for a sledding day. Cost will be \$5/family to cover snacks and gratuity to the club. There will be a brief lesson from 1-1:15 p.m.; then you are free to sled or toboggan on the slopes behind the clubhouse. A bonfire with s'mores and hot chocolate will be available to everyone. I will also have some crafts/activities (and maybe some cookies) for the kids if they need to come in and warm up or rest. Cash bar for all other drinks (soda or adult beverages). Bundle up, bring a sled, and have some fun with your church family!

Sunday, February 18th Practice our songs with choir right after service followed by class as usual.

Sunday, February 25th Practice our songs with choir right after service followed by class as usual.

Wednesday, February 28th Lenten Supper 6:00 p.m. and Service at St. Paul 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 13th Lenten Supper 6:00 p.m. HOSTED BY SUNDAY SCHOOL AND YOUTH GROUP and Service at St. Paul 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 24th Palm Sunday Sunday School will sing with adult choir during service AND we will be travelling to Good Shepherd to sing and play bells at the beginning of their service. We will carpool over and will leave after we perform.

Thursday, March 28th Maundy Thursday service 5:30 p.m. at Good Shepherd and 7:00pm St Paul

Friday, March 29th Good Friday service 1:00 p.m. at Good Shepherd and 7:00 p.m. at St Paul

Sunday, March 31st Easter Sunday Sunrise service at 6:30am; Festival service at 8:30am. BREAKFAST HOSTED BY SUNDAY SCHOOL AND YOUTH GROUP 7:15-8:15am. Sunday school will sing with adult choir during Festival service.

The Lenten Season will be upon us very soon. Lent is a time for renewing faith, hope, and love. Prepare your heart and mind to hear God's word and look toward The Cross. Often times during Lent, Christians do three things: they give up something; they give to the needy; and they follow Jesus. What will you do?

Galatians 6:9-10 "Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest, if we do not give up. So then, while we have the opportunity, let us do good to all."

Submitted by Susan Schember, Youth Group Leader and Sunday School Superintendent

CAN YOU HELP? We still have lots of boxes in the basement from the White Elephant Sale. These need to be taken to Salvation Army, Good Will, Revive Ministries, or Thumb Industries. If you have time, please grab a few boxes and drop them off. Thanks in advance!

PRIVATE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION	
<u>From the Small Catechism: Confession</u>	
<p><i>What is confession?</i> <i>Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.</i></p> <p>Private, or individual, confession and absolution is available by appointment with Pastor Suggitt. You may call him at 989.551.3976 to set up a time.</p>	



Don Fibranz Satchell's Christian Foster Care Home 2662 E. Caro Road Caro, MI 48723	Peggy Kelly 6282 Pine Street Cass City, MI 48726 (989) 872-5086
Wilma Kovach 2700 Knotter Road Owendale, MI 48754 (989) 678-4356	Beverly Liedke 160 Country Bay Drive Room 308 Pigeon, MI 48755 (989) 453-3637
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St. Paul's "Epistles" is published monthly by St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, 7292 Kilmanagh Road, Pigeon, MI, 48755.

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Sunday Worship: 8:30 a.m.
 Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

**NewsLetter
DEADLINE**

Articles for the March issue of St. Paul's "Epistle" are due Sunday, February 18th.

Please place your articles in the "Epistles" mailbox at the church or email them to Sandy at salcido.sandy8@gmail.com.

Don't forget those "Hats Off" items!

IN HIS SERVICE

February Elders

4 – Ron Tabar & Josh Sprague
11 – Robert Haag & Joe Salcido
14 – Ash. Wed. 7:00 p.m. – Joe Salcido
18 – Ken Haley & Matt Reibling
25 – Ron Tabar & Josh Sprague
28 – 7:00 p.m. – Ron Tabar

February Acolytes

4 – Walter Haag
11 – Henry Haag
18 – Owen Reibling
25 – Chase Swartzendruber

Tithe Counters

Feb. 11 – Patti Reinhardt & Kari Ricker
Feb. 25 – Jylan Shope & Chris Gettel

February Altar Guild & Altar Flowers

Joyce Metzger
Ruth Kumaus

Snow Patrol – February 2023

4 - 8:30 a.m. **Volunteer**
11 - 8:30 a.m. **Timmons**
14 - 7:00 p.m. *Ash Wed* **Stoeckle**
18 - 8:30 a.m. **Fluegge**
25 - 8:30 a.m. **Volunteer**
28 - 7:00 p.m. **Timmons**



At the present time we are short one trustee. Therefore, we would appreciate it if some of our members would volunteer to be in charge of snow removal on the sidewalks and steps around the church occasionally. If you are willing to volunteer for this chore, please sign up on the Snow Removal calendar at the south entrance.

Your help would be appreciated.



Feb. 4th – Lisa Halleck
4th – Lilly-Anne Provost
7th – Scott Wright
8th – Ava Dubs
9th – Harold Weisenbach
10th – Karen Britt
11th – Kennedy Bismack
12th – Charlotte Metzger
12th – David Ondrajka
12th – Lila Stein
13th – Chad Timmons
16th – Bradley Barnum
20th – Lola Stein
21st – James O'Hare
22nd – Dena Harris
23rd – Nicholas O'Hare
23rd – Owen Reibling



Feb. 3rd - Jim & Sue Albrecht
4th - Herschel & Barb Adams
18th - Matt & Kari Ricker
19th - Steve & Michelle Gayari

February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4 8:30 AM Service 9:30 AM SS & Coffee Hour Ladies Aid Meeting 1:30 AM Catechism 7:00 PM Youth Bible Study	5 6:00 PM Choir	6 6:15 PM Elders 7:00 PM Council	7	8	9	10
11 8:30 AM Service 9:30 AM SS & Coffee Hour 1:30 AM Catechism	12 6:00 PM Choir	13	14  ASH WEDNESDAY Divine Service 5:30 p.m. Good Shepherd 7:00 p.m. St. Paul	15	16	17
18 8:30 AM Service 9:30 AM SS & Coffee Hour 1:30 AM Catechism 7:00 PM Young Men's Group	19 6:00 PM Choir	20	21 7:00 PM Evening Prayer Service @ Good Shepherd	22	23	24
25 8:30 AM Service 9:30 AM SS & Coffee Hour 1:30 AM Catechism	26 6:00 PM Choir	27	28 6:00 PM Lenten Supper 7:00 PM Evening Prayer Service @ St. Paul		2024	
					Dinner Chairman Wanted: We'd like to have some kind of a dinner but we need someone to 'take the bull by the horns'. Lots of people will help but don't want to be in charge. If interested contact Jason Reinhardt.	

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*St. Paul Evangelical
Lutheran Church*

7292 Kilmanagh Rd.
Pigeon, MI 48755



Divine Service – 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, February 14, 2024